

Nonsense Songs & Stories



Illustrated



EDWARD LEAR

M₃R

To Fosco and Grato
with best wishes from
F H Sargant
New Year 1922

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NONSENSE SONGS

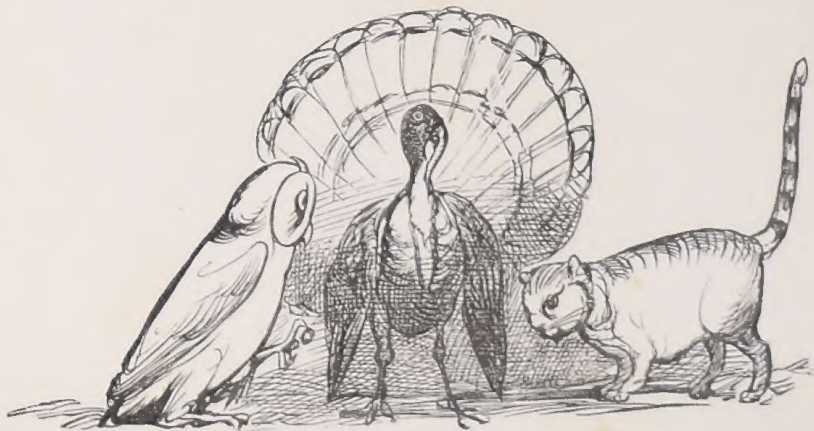
AND

STORIES.



NONSENSE SONGS AND STORIES.

BY
EDWARD LEAR,
AUTHOR OF
"THE BOOK OF NONSENSE," ETC. ETC.




Sixth Edition.

LONDON AND NEW YORK:
FREDERICK WARNE AND CO.
1888.

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BY WAY OF PREFACE.

T is believed that all save the youngest readers of these Nonsense Books will be interested in the two following autobiographical letters by the author, which have never till now been published. The first, written nearly a quarter of a century back, just before one of his journeys in search of the picturesque, is a strict recital of date and fact; the second, composed some years later, and after he had set up his residence at San Remo, was written for a young lady of his acquaintance, who had quoted to him the words of a young lady not of his acquaintance, which form the *refrain* of the verses—"How pleasant to know Mr. Lear!"

MY DEAR F.,

I want to send you, before leaving England, a note or two as to the various publications I have uttered,—bad and good, and of all sorts,—also their dates, that so you might be able to screw them into a beautiful memoir of me in case I leave my bones at Palmyra or elsewhere. Leastwise, if a man does anything all through life with a deal of bother, and likewise of some benefit to others, the details of such bother and benefit may as well be known accurately as the contrary.

Born in 1812 (12th May), I began to draw, for bread and cheese, about 1827, but only did uncommon queer shop-sketches—selling them for prices varying from ninepence to four shillings: colouring prints, screens, fans; awhile making morbid disease drawings, for hospitals and certain doctors of physic. In 1831, through Mrs. Wentworth, I became employed at the Zoological Society, and, in 1832, published “The Family of the Psittacidæ,” the first complete volume of coloured drawings of birds on so large a scale published in England, as far as I know—unless Audubon’s were previously engraved. J. Gould’s “Indian Pheasants” were commenced at the same time, and after a little while he employed me to draw many of his birds of Europe, while I assisted Mrs. Gould in all her drawings of foregrounds, as may be seen in a moment by any one who will glance at my drawings in G.’s European birds and the Toucans. From 1832 to 1836, when my health failed a good deal, I drew much at the Earl of Derby’s; and a series of my drawings was published by Dr. Gray of the British Museum—a book now rare. I also lithographed many various detached subjects, and a large series of Testudinata for Mr. (now Professor) Bell; and I made drawings for Bell’s “British Mammalia,” and for two or more volumes of the “Naturalist’s Library” for the editor, Sir W. Jardine, those volumes being the Parrots, and, I think, the Monkeys, and some Cats. In 1835 or ’36, being in Ireland and the Lakes, I leaned more and more to landscape, and when in 1837 it was found that my health was more affected by the climate month by month, I went abroad, wintering in Rome till 1841, when I came to England and published a volume of lithographs called “Rome and its Environs.” Returning to Rome, I visited Sicily and much of the South of Italy, and continued to make chalk drawings, though in 1840 I had painted my two first oil-paintings. I also gave lessons in drawing at Rome, and was able to make a very comfortable living. In 1845 I came again to England, and in 1846 gave Queen Victoria some lessons, through Her Majesty’s having seen a work I published in that year on the Abruzzi, and another on the Roman States. In 1847 I went through all Southern Calabria, and again went round Sicily, and in 1848 left Rome entirely. I travelled then to Malta, Greece, Constantinople, and the Ionian Islands; and to Mount Sinai and Greece a second time in 1849, returning to England in that year. All 1850 I gave up to improving myself in figure-drawing, and I continued to paint

oil-paintings till 1853, having published in the meantime, in 1849 and 1852, two volumes entitled "*Journals of a Landscape Painter*," in Albania and Calabria. The first edition of the *Book of Nonsense* was published in 1846, lithographed by tracing-paper. In 1854 I went to Egypt and Switzerland, and in 1855 to Corfu, where I remained the winters of 1856-57-58, visiting Athos, and, later, Jerusalem and Syria. In the autumn of 1858 I returned to England, and '59 and '60 winters were passed in Rome. 1861, I remained all the winter in England, and painted the Cedars of Lebanon and Masada, going, after my sister's death in March 1861, to Italy. The two following winters—'62 and '63—were passed at Corfu, and in the end of the latter year I published "*Views in the Ionian Islands*." In 1862 a second edition of the "*Book of Nonsense*," much enlarged, was published, and is now in its sixteenth thousand.

O bother!

Yours affectionately,

EDWARD LEAR.

"How pleasant to know Mr. Lear!"

Who has written such volumes of stuff!
Some think him ill-tempered and queer,
But a few think him pleasant enough.

His mind is concrete and fastidious,
His nose is remarkably big;
His visage is more or less hideous,
His beard it resembles a wig.

He has ears, and two eyes, and ten fingers,
Leastways if you reckon two thumbs;
Long ago he was one of the singers,
But now he is one of the dumbs.

He sits in a beautiful parlour,
With hundreds of books on the wall
He drinks a great deal of Marsala,
But never gets tipsy at all.

By Way of Preface.

He has many friends, laymen and clerical,
Old Foss is the name of his cat :
His body is perfectly spherical,
He weareth a runcible hat.

When he walks in a waterproof white,
The children run after him so !
Calling out, " He's come out in his night-
gown, that crazy old Englishman, oh ! "

He weeps by the side of the ocean,
He weeps on the top of the hill ;
He purchases pancakes and lotion,
And chocolate shrimps from the mill.

He reads but he cannot speak Spanish,
He cannot abide ginger-beer :
Ere the days of his pilgrimage vanish,
How pleasant to know Mr. Lear !



CONTENTS.



NONSENSE SONGS.

THE OWL AND THE PUSSY-CAT.

THE DUCK AND THE KANGAROO.

THE DADDY LONG-LEGS AND THE FLY.

THE JUMBLIES.

THE NUTCRACKERS AND THE SUGAR-TONGS.

CALICO PIE.

MR. AND MRS. SPIKKY SPARROW.

THE BROOM, THE SHOVEL, THE POKER, AND THE TONGS

THE TABLE AND THE CHAIR.

THE DONG WITH A LUMINOUS NOSE.

THE TWO OLD BACHELORS.

THE PELICAN CHORUS.

THE YONGHY-BONGHY-BÒ.

THE POBBLE WHO HAS NO TOES.

THE NEW VESTMENTS.

MR. AND MRS. DIS COBBOLOS.

NONSENSE SONGS—*continued.*

THE QUANGLE-WANGLE'S HAT.

THE CUMMERBUND.

THE AKOND OF SWAT.

NONSENSE STORIES.

THE STORY OF THE FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WHO WENT
ROUND THE WORLD.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN FAMILIES.



NONSENSE SONGS.



THE OWL AND THE PUSSY-CAT.

I.

THE Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

II.

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"
They sailed away for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-tree grows,
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.



III.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.

They dinèd on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon ;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.





THE DUCK AND THE KANGAROO.

I.



SAID the Duck to the Kangaroo,
 "Good gracious! how you hop!
 Over the fields and the water too,
 As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
 I wish I could hop like you!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

II.

"Please give me a ride on your back!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

I.

"I would sit quite still, and say nothing but 'Quack,'
The whole of the long day through!
And we'd go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,
Over the land, and over the sea;—
Please take me a ride! O do!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.



III.

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
"This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,
And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the roo-
Matiz!" said the Kangaroo.

IV.

Said the Duck, "As I sate on the rocks,
I have thought over that completely,
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks
Which fit my web-feet neatly.
And to keep out the cold I've bought a cloak,
And every day a cigar I'll smoke,
All to follow my own dear true
Love of a Kangaroo!"



V.

Said the Kangaroo, "I'm ready!
All in the moonlight pale;
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!
And quite at the end of my tail!"

So away they went with a hop and a bound,
And they hopped the whole world three times round ;
And who so happy,—O who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo ?





THE DADDY LONG-LEGS AND THE FLY.

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I.



ONCE Mr. Daddy Long-legs,
Dressed in brown and gray,
Walked about upon the sands
Upon a summer's day ;
And there among the pebbles,
When the wind was rather cold,
He met with Mr. Floppy Fly,
All dressed in blue and gold.
And as it was too soon to dine,
They drank some Periwinkle-wine,

And played an hour two, or more,
At battlecock and shuttledore.

II.

Said Mr. Daddy Long-legs
To Mr. Floppy Fly,
"Why do you never come to court?
I wish you'd tell me why.
All gold and shine, in dress so fine,
You'd quite delight the court.
Why do you never go at all?
I really think you *ought*!
And if you went, you'd see such sights!
Such rugs! and jugs! and candle-lights!
And more than all, the King and Queen,
One in red, and one in green!"

III.

"O Mr. Daddy Long-legs,"
Said Mr. Floppy Fly,
"It's true I never go to court,
And I will tell you why.
If I had six long legs like yours,
At once I'd go to court!
But oh! I can't, because *my* legs
Are so extremely short.
And I'm afraid the King and Queen
(One in red, and one in green)

The Daddy Long-Legs and the Fly.

Would say aloud, "You are not fit,
You Fly, to come to court a bit!"

IV.

"O Mr. Daddy Long-legs,"
Said Mr. Floppy Fly,
"I wish you'd sing one little song!
One numbian melody!
You used to sing so awful well
In former days gone by,
But now you never sing at all;
I wish you'd tell me why:
For if you would, the silvery sound
Would please the shrimps and cockles round,
And all the crabs would gladly come
To hear you sing, 'Ab, Hum di Hum!'"

V.

Said Mr. Daddy Long-legs,
"I can never sing again!
And if you wish, I'll tell you why,
Although it gives me pain.
For years I could not hum a bit,
Or sing the smallest song;
And this the dreadful reason is,
My legs are grown too long!"

My six long legs, all here and there,
Oppress my bosom with despair ;
And if I stand, or lie, or sit,
I cannot sing one single bit ! ”

VI.

So Mr. Daddy Long-legs
And Mr. Floppy Fly
Sat down in silence by the sea,
And gazed upon the sky.
They said, “ This is a dreadful thing !
The world has all gone wrong,
Since one has legs too short by half,
The other much too long !
One never more can go to court,
Because his legs have grown too short ;
The other cannot sing a song,
Because his legs have grown too long ! ”

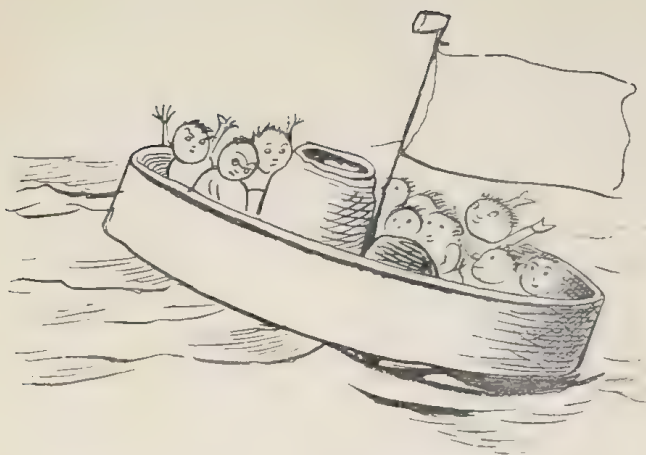
VII.

Then Mr. Daddy Long-legs
And Mr. Floppy Fly
Rushed downward to the foaming sea
With one sponge-taneous cry ;
And there they found a little boat,
Whose sails were pink and gray ;
And off they sailed among the waves,
Far, and far away.

The Daddy Long-Legs and the Fly.

They sailed across the silent main,
And reached the great Gromboolian plain ;
And there they play for evermore
At battlecock and shuttledore.





THE JUMBLIES.

I.

THEY went to sea in a Sieve, they did,
 In a Sieve they went to sea :
 In spite of all their friends could say,
 On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,
 In a Sieve they went to sea !
 And when the Sieve turned round and round,
 And every one cried, " You'll all be drowned !"
 They called aloud, " Our Sieve ain't big,
 But we don't care a button ! we don't care a fig !
 In a Sieve we'll go to sea !"
 Far and few, far and few,
 Are the lands where the Jumblies live ;

The Jumblics.

Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

II.

They sailed away in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they sailed so fast,
With only a beautiful pea-green veil
Tied with a riband by way of a sail,
To a small tobacco-pipe mast ;
And every one said, who saw them go,
“ O won't they be soon upset, you know !
For the sky is dark, and the voyage is long,
And happen what may, it's extremely wrong
In a Sieve to sail so fast ! ”
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblics live :
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

III.

The water it soon came in, it did,
The water it soon came in ;
So to keep them dry, they wrapped their feet
In a pinky paper all folded neat,
And they fastened it down with a pin.
And they passed the night in a crockery-jar,
And each of them said, “ How wise we are !

Though the sky be dark, and the voyage be long,
Yet we never can think we were rash or wrong,
While round in our Sieve we spin ! ”
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live ;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

IV.

And all night long they sailed away ;
And when the sun went down,
They whistled and warbled a moony song
To the echoing sound of a coppery gong,
In the shade of the mountains brown.
“ O Timballo ! How happy we are,
When we live in a sieve and a crockery-jar,
And all night long in the moonlight pale,
We sail away with a pea-green sail,
In the shade of the mountains brown ! ”
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live ;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

V.

They sailed to the Western Sea, they did,
To a land all covered with trees,

And they bought an Owl, and a useful Cart,
And a pound of Rice, and a Cranberry Tart,
And a hive of silvery Bees.
And they bought a Pig, and some green Jack-daws,
And a lovely Monkey with lollipop paws,
And forty bottles of Ring-Bo-Ree,
And no end of Stilton Cheese.
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live ;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

VI.

And in twenty years they all came back,
In twenty years or more,
And every one said, " How tall they've grown !
For they've been to the Lakes, and the Terrible Zone,
And the hills of the Chankly Bore ;"
And they drank their health, and gave them a feast
Of dumplings made of beautiful yeast ;
And every one said, " If we only live,
We too will go to sea in a Sieve,—
To the hills of the Chankly Bore !"
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live ;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.



THE NUTCRACKERS AND THE SUGAR-TONGS.

I.

THE Nutcrackers sate by a plate on the table,
The Sugar-tongs sate by a plate at his side;
And the Nutcrackers said, "Don't you wish we were able
" Along the blue hills and green meadows to ride?
" Must we drag on this stupid existence for ever,
" So idle and weary, so full of remorse,—
" While every one else takes his pleasure, and never
" Seems happy unless he is riding a horse?

II.

" Don't you think we could ride without being instructed?
" Without any saddle, or bridle, or spur?
" Our legs are so long, and so aptly constructed,
" I'm sure that an accident could not occur.

"Let us all of a sudden hop down from the table,
"And hustle downstairs, and each jump on a horse!
"Shall we try? Shall we go? Do you think we are able?"
The Sugar-tongs answered distinctly, "Of course!"

III.

So down the long staircase they hopped in a minute,
The Sugar-tongs snapped, and the Crackers said "crack!"
The stable was open, the horses were in it;
Each took out a pony, and jumped on his back.
The Cat in a fright scrambled out of the doorway,
The Mice tumbled out of a bundle of hay,
The brown and white Rats, and the black ones from Norway,
Screamed out, "They are taking the horses away!"

IV.

The whole of the household was filled with amazement,
The Cups and the Saucers danced madly about,
The Plates and the Dishes looked out of the casement,
The Saltcellar stood on his head with a shout,
The Spoons with a clatter looked out of the lattice,
The Mustard-pot climbed up the Gooseberry Pies,
The Soup-ladle peeped through a heap of Veal Patties,
And squeaked with a ladle-like scream of surprise.

V.

The Frying-pan said, "It's an awful delusion!"

The Tea-kettle hissed and grew black in the face ;
And they all rushed downstairs in the wildest confusion,
To see the great Nutcracker-Sugar-tong race.
And out of the stable, with screamings and laughter,
(Their ponies were cream-coloured, speckled with brown.)
The Nutcrackers first, and the Sugar-tongs after,
Rode all round the yard, and then all round the town.

VI.

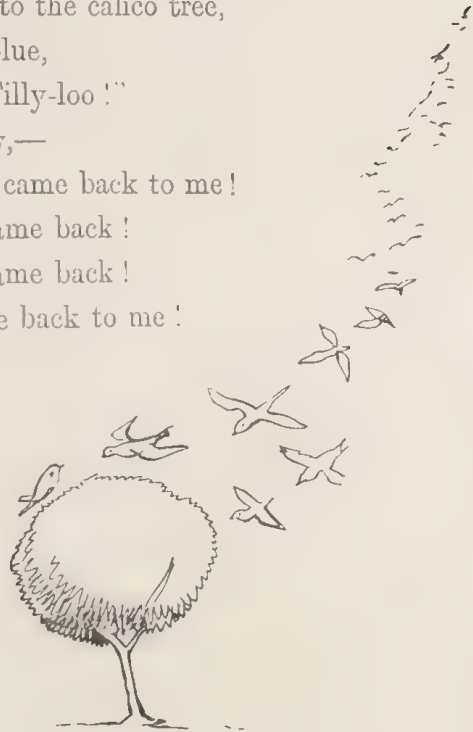
They rode through the street, and they rode by the station,
They galloped away to the beautiful shore ;
In silence they rode, and "made no observation,"
Save this : "We will never go back any more!"
And still you might hear, till they rode out of hearing,
The Sugar-tongs snap, and the Crackers say "crack!"
Till far in the distance, their forms disappearing,
They faded away.—And they never came back!

CALICO PIE.

I.



ALICO Pie,
The Little Birds fly
Down to the calico tree,
Their wings were blue,
And they sang "Tilly-loo!"
Till away they flew,—
And they never came back to me!
They never came back!
They never came back!
They never came back to me!



II.

Calico Jam,
The little Fish swam
Over the syllabub sea,
He took of his hat,
To the Sole and the Sprat,
And the Willeby-wat,—



But he never came back to me !
He never came back !
He never came back !
He never came back to me !

III.

Calico Ban,
The little Mice ran,
To be ready in time for tea,
Flippity flup,
They drank it all up,
And danced in the cup,—

But they never came back to me !
 They never came back !
 They never came back !
 They never came back to me !

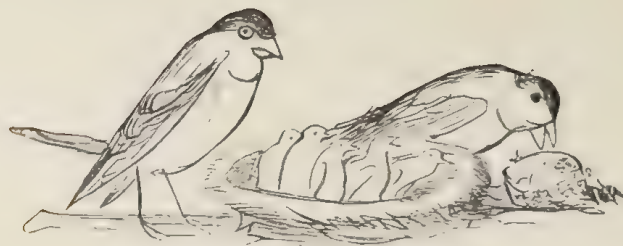


IV.

Calico Drum,
 The Grasshoppers come,
 The Butterfly, Beetle, and Bee,
 Over the ground,
 Around and round,
 With a hop and a bound,—



But they never came back !
 They never came back !
 They never came back !
 They never came back to me !



MR. AND MRS. SPIKKY SPARROW.

I.



N a little piece of wood,
Mr. Spikky Sparrow stood ;
Mrs. Sparrow sate close by,
A-making of an insect pie,
For her little children five,
In the nest and all alive,
Singing with a cheerful smile
To amuse them all the while,
Twikky wikky wikky wee,
Wikky bikky twikky tee,
Spikky bikky bee !

II.

Mrs. Spikky Sparrow said,
" Spikky, Darling ! in my head
" Many thoughts of trouble come,
" Like to flies upon a plum !

“All last night, among the trees,
“I heard you cough, I heard you sneeze;
“And, thought I, it’s come to that
“Because he does not wear a hat!
 “Chippy wippy sikky tee!
 “Bikky wikky tikky mee!
 “Spikky chippy wee!

III.

“Not that you are growing old,
“But the nights are growing cold.
“No one stays out all night long
“Without a hat: I’m sure it’s wrong!”
Mr. Spikky said, “How kind,
“Dear! you are, to speak your mind!
“All your life I wish you luck!
“You are! you are! a lovely duck!
 “Witchy witchy witchy wee!
 “Twitchy witchy witchy bee!
 “Tikky tikky tee!

IV.

“I was also sad, and thinking,
“When one day I saw you winking,
“And I heard you snuffle-snuffle,
“And I saw your feathers ruffle;

"To myself I sadly said,
"She's neuralgia in her head!
"That dear head has nothing on it!
"Ought she not to wear a bonnet?
 "Witchy kitchy kitchy wee!
 "Spikky wikky mikky bee!
 "Chippy wippy chee!

v.

"Let us both fly up to town!
"There I'll buy you such a gown!
"Which, completely in the fashion,
"You shall tie a sky-blue sash on.
"And a pair of slippers neat,
"To fit your darling little feet,
"So that you will look and feel
"Quite galloobious and genteel!
 "Jikky wikky bikky see!
 "Chicky bikky wikky bee!
 "Twicky witchy wee!"

vi.

So they both to London went,
Alighting on the Monument,
Whence they flew down swiftly—pop,
Into Moses' wholesale shop;

There they bought a hat and bonnet,
And a gown with spots upon it,
A satin sash of Cloxam blue,
And a pair of slippers too.

Zikky wikky mikky bee !
Witchy witchy mitchy kee !
Sikky tikky wee !

VII.

Then when so completely drest,
Back they flew and reached their nest.
Their children cried, " O Ma and Pa !
" How truly beautiful you are !"
Said they, " We trust that cold or pain
" We shall never feel again !
" While, perched on tree, or house, or steeple,
" We now shall look like other people.
" Witchy witchy witchy wee !
" Twikky mikky bikky bee !
" Zikky sikky tee !"





THE BROOM, THE SHOVEL, THE POKER,
AND THE TONGS.

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I.



HE Broom and the Shovel, the Poker and Tongs,
They all took a drive in the Park,
And they each sang a song, Ding-a-dong, Ding-a-dong,
Before they went back in the dark.
Mr. Poker he sate quite upright in the coach,
Mr. Tongs made a clatter and clash,
Miss Shovel was dressed all in black (with a brooch),
Mrs. Broom was in blue (with a sash).
Ding-a-dong! Ding-a-dong!
And they all sang a song!

II.

"O Shovel so lovely!" the Poker he sang,
"You have perfectly conquered my heart!"

"Ding-a-dong! Ding-a-dong! If you're pleased with my song
"I will feed you with cold apple tart!
"When you scrape up the coals with a delicate sound,
"You enrapture my life with delight!
"Your nose is so shiny! your head is so round!
"And your shape is so slender and bright!
"Ding-a-dong! Ding-a-dong!
"Ain't you pleased with my song?"

III.

"Alas! Mrs. Broom!" sighed the Tongs in his song,
"O is it because I'm so thin,
"And my legs are so long—Ding-a-dong! Ding-a-dong!
"That you don't care about me a pin?
"Ah! fairest of creatures, when sweeping the room,
"Ah! why don't you heed my complaint!
"Must you needs be so cruel, you beautiful Broom,
"Because you are covered with paint?
"Ding-a-dong! Ding-a-dong!
"You are certainly wrong!"

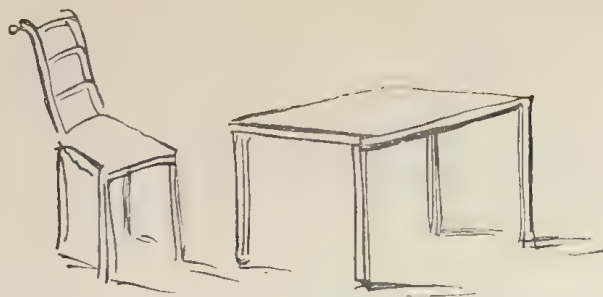
IV.

Mrs. Broom and Miss Shovel together they sang,
"What nonsense you're singing to-day!"
Said the Shovel, "I'll certainly hit you a bang!"
Said the Broom, "And I'll sweep you away!"

So the Coachman drove homeward as fast as he could,
Perceiving their anger with pain ;
But they put on the kettle, and little by little,
They all became happy again.

Ding-a-dong ! Ding-a-dong !
There's an end of my song !





THE TABLE AND THE CHAIR.

I.



S AID the Table to the Chair,
" You can hardly be aware
" How I suffer from the heat,
" And from chilblains on my feet !
" If we took a little walk,
" We might have a little talk !
" Pray let us take the air !"
Said the Table to the Chair.

II.

Said the Chair unto the Table,
" Now you *know* we are not able !
" How foolishly you talk,
" When you know we *cannot* walk !"
Said the Table with a sigh,
" It can do no harm to try ;
" I've as many legs as you,
" Why can't we walk on two ?"

III.

So they both went slowly down,
And walked about the town
With a cheerful bumpy sound,
As they toddled round and round.
And everybody cried,
As they hastened to their side,
"See! the Table and the Chair
"Have come out to take the air!"

IV.

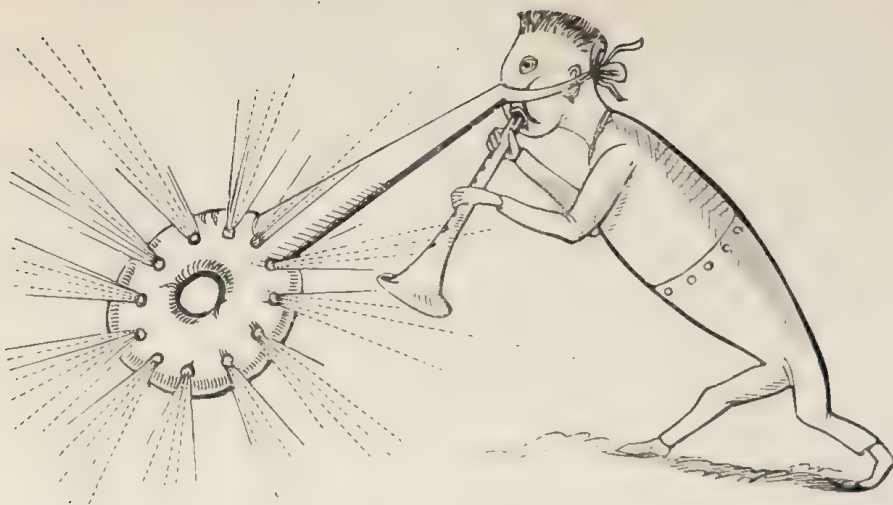
But in going down an alley,
To a castle in the valley,
They completely lost their way,
And wandered all the day,
Till, to see them safely back,
They paid a Ducky-quack,
And a Beetle, and a Mouse,
Who took them to their house.



V.

Then they whispered to each other,
"O delightful little brother !
"What a lovely walk we've taken !
"Let us dine on Beans and Bacon !"
So the Ducky and the leetle
Brownny-Mousy and the Beetle
Dined, and danced upon their heads
Till they toddled to their beds.





THE DONG WITH A LUMINOUS NOSE.

W
 HEN awful darkness and silence reign
 Over the great Gromboolian plain,
 Through the long, long wintry nights ;—
 When the angry breakers roar
 As they beat on the rocky shore ;—
 When Storm-clouds brood on the towering heights
 Of the Hills of the Chankly Bore :—

Then, through the vast and gloomy dark,
 There moves what seems a fiery spark,
 A lonely spark with silvery rays

Piercing the coal-black night,—
A meteor strange and bright :—
Hither and thither the vision strays,
A single lurid light.

Slowly it wanders,—pauses,—creeps,—
Anon it sparkles,—flashes and leaps ;
And ever as onward it gleaming goes
A light on the Bong-tree stems it throws.
And those who watch at that midnight hour
From Hall or Terrace, or lofty Tower,
Cry, as the wild light passes along,—
“ The Dong !—the Dong !
“ The wandering Dong through the forest goes !
“ The Dong ! the Dong !
“ The Dong with a luminous Nose !”

Long years ago
The Dong was happy and gay,
Till he fell in love with a Jumbly Girl
Who came to those shores one day.
For the Jumblies came in a Sieve, they did,—
Landing at eve near the Zemmery Fidd
Where the Oblong Oysters grow,
And the rocks are smooth and gray.

And all the woods and the valleys rang
With the Chorus they daily and nightly sang,—

*“Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a sieve.”*

Happily, happily passed those days!

While the cheerful Jumblies staid;
They danced in circlets all night long,
To the plaintive pipe of the lively Dong,
In moonlight, shine, or shade.

For day and night he was always there
By the side of the Jumbly Girl so fair,
With her sky-blue hands, and her sea-green hair.
Till the morning came of that hateful day
When the Jumblies sailed in their sieve away,
And the Dong was left on the cruel shore
Gazing—gazing for evermore,—
Ever keeping his weary eyes on
That pea-green sail on the far horizon,—
Singing the Jumbly Chorus still
As he sate all day on the grassy hill,—

*“Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a sieve.”*

But when the sun was low in the West,
The Dong arose and said,—
“What little sense I once possessed
Has quite gone out of my head!”
And since that day he wanders still
By lake and forest, marsh and hill,
Singing—“O somewhere, in valley or plain
“Might I find my Jumbly Girl again!
“For ever I’ll seek by lake and shore
“Till I find my Jumbly Girl once more!”

Playing a pipe with silvery squeaks,
Since then his Jumbly Girl he seeks,
And because by night he could not see,
He gathered the bark of the Twangum Tree
On the flowery plain that grows.
And he wove him a wondrous Nose,—
A Nose as strange as a Nose could be!
Of vast proportions and painted red,
And tied with cords to the back of his head.
—In a hollow rounded space it ended
With a luminous lamp within suspended,
All fenced about
With a bandage stout
To prevent the wind from blowing it out;—
And with holes all round to send the light,
In gleaming rays on the dismal night.

And now each night, and all night long,
Over those plains still roams the Dong ;
And above the wail of the Chimp and Snipe
You may hear the squeak of his plaintive pipe
While ever he seeks, but seeks in vain
To meet with his Jumbly Girl again ;
Lonely and wild—all night he goes,—
The Dong with a luminous Nose !
And all who watch at the midnight hour,
From Hall or Terrace, or lofty Tower,
Cry, as they trace the Meteor bright,
Moving along through the dreary night,—

“ This is the hour when forth he goes,

“ The Dong with a luminous Nose !

“ Yonder—over the plain he goes ;

“ He goes !

“ He goes ;

“ The Dong with a luminous Nose ! ”



THE TWO OLD BACHELORS.



TWO old Bachelors were living in one house ;
One caught a Muffin, the other caught a Mouse.
Said he who caught the Muffin to him who caught the
Mouse,—

“ This happens just in time ! For we’ve nothing in the house,
“ Save a tiny slice of lemon and a teaspoonful of honey,
“ And what to do for dinner—since we haven’t any money ?
“ And what can we expect if we haven’t any dinner,
“ But to lose our teeth and eyelashes and keep on growing
thinner ? ”

Said he who caught the Mouse to him who caught the
Muffin,—

“We might cook this little Mouse, if we only had some
Stuffin’!

“If we had but Sage and Onion we could do extremely well,

“But how to get that Stuffin’ it is difficult to tell!”—

Those two old Bachelors ran quickly to the town
And asked for Sage and Onion as they wandered up and down ;
They borrowed two large Onions, but no Sage was to be found
In the Shops, or in the Market, or in all the Gardens round.

But some one said,—“A hill there is, a little to the north,
“And to its purpledicular top a narrow way leads forth ;—
“And there among the rugged rocks abides an ancient Sage,—
“An earnest Man, who reads all day a most perplexing page.
“Climb up, and seize him by the toes!—all studious as he sits, —
“And pull him down,—and chop him into endless little bits!
“Then mix him with your Onion, (cut up likewise into Scraps,)—
“When your Stuffin’ will be ready—and very good : perhaps.”

Those two old Bachelors without loss of time
The nearly purpledicular crags at once began to climb ;
And at the top, among the rocks, all seated in a nook,
They saw that Sage, a-reading of a most enormous book.

“ You earnest Sage ! ” aloud they cried, “ you’re book you’ve read enough in !—

“ We wish to chop you into bits to mix you into Stuffin’ ! ”—

But that old Sage looked calmly up, and with his awful book,
At those two Bachelors’ bald heads a certain aim he took ;—
And over crag and precipice they rolled promiscuous down,—
At once they rolled, and never stopped in lane or field or town,—
And when they reached their house, they found (besides their
want of Stuffin’,)

The Mouse had fled ;—and, previously, had eaten up the Muffin.

They left their home in silence by the once convivial door.
And from that hour those Bachelors were never heard of more.

THE PELICAN CHORUS.

THE PELICANS.

CANTO.

King and Queen of the Peli - cans we, No other birds so grand we see!

PIANO

None but we have feet like fins, with love - ly lea - the - ry throats and chins,

Coro—piu sostenuto.

Ploff - skin, Pluff - skin, Pe - li - can Jee! we think no birds so hap - py as we!

Plump - skin, Ploff - skin, Pe - li - can Jill! We think so then, and we thought so still!



THE PELICAN CHORUS.



KING and Queen of the Pelicans we ;
 No other Birds so grand we see !
 None but we have feet like fins !
 With lovely leathery throats and chins !
 Ploffskin, Pluffskin, Pelican jee !
 We think no birds so happy as we !
 Plumpskin, Ploshkin, Pelican jill !
 We think so then, and we thought so still !

We live on the Nile. The Nile we love.
 By night we sleep on the cliffs above ;

By day we fish, and at eve we stand
On long bare islands of yellow sand.
And when the sun sinks slowly down
And the great rock walls grow dark and brown,
Where the purple river rolls fast and dim
And the ivory Ibis starlike skim,
Wing to wing we dance around,—
Stamping our feet with a flumpy sound,—
Opening our mouths as Pelicans ought,
And this is the song we nightly snort :
 Ploffskin, Pluffskin, Pelican jee,—
 We think no Birds so happy as we !
 Plumpskin, Ploshkin, Pelican jill,—
 We think so then, and we thought so still.

Last year came out our Daughter, Dell ;
And all the Birds received her well.
To do her honour, a feast we made
For every bird that can swim or wade.
Heron and Gulls, and Cormorants black,
Cranes, and Flamingoes with scarlet back,
Plovers and Storks, and Geese in clouds,
Swans and Dilberry Ducks in crowds.
Thousands of Birds in wondrous flight !
They ate and drank and danced all night,
And echoing back from the rocks you heard
Multitude-echoes from Bird and Bird.—

Ploffskin, Pluffskin, Pelican jee,
We think no Birds so happy as we !
Plumpskin, Ploshkin, Pelican jill,
We think so then, and we thought so still !

Yes, they came ; and among the rest,
The King of the Cranes all grandly dressed.
Such a lovely tail ! Its feathers float
Between the ends of his blue dress-coat ;
With pea-green trowsers all so neat,
And a delicate frill to hide his feet,—
(For though no one speaks of it, every one knows,
He has got no webs between his toes !)

As soon as he saw our Daughter Dell,
In violent love that Crane King fell,—
On seeing her waddling form so fair,
With a wreath of shrimps in her short white hair,
And before the end of the next long day,
Our Dell had given her heart away ;
For the King of the Cranes had won that heart,
With a Crocodile's egg and a large fish-tart.
She vowed to marry the King of the Cranes,
Leaving the Nile for stranger plains ;
And away they flew in a gathering crowd
Of endless birds in a lengthening cloud.

Ploffskin, Pluffskin, Pelican jee,
 We think no Birds so happy as we !
 Plumpskin, Ploshkin, Pelican jill,
 We think so then, and we thought so still !

And far away in the twilight sky,
 We heard them singing a lessening cry,—
 Farther and farther till out of sight,
 And we stood alone in the silent night !
 Often since, in the nights of June,
 We sit on the sand and watch the moon ;—
 She has gone to the great Gromboolian plain,
 And we probably never shall meet again !
 Oft, in the long still nights of June,
 We sit on the rocks and watch the moon ;—
 —She dwells by the streams of the Chankly Bore,
 And we probably never shall see her more.

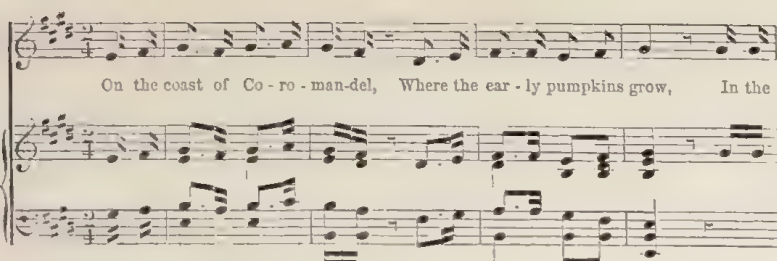
Ploffskin, Pluffskin, Pelican jee,
 We think no Birds so happy as we !
 Plumpskin, Ploshkin, Pelican jill,
 We think so then, and we thought so still !

NOTE.—The Air of this and the following Song by Edward Lear ;
 the Arrangement for the Piano by Professor Pomè, of San Remo, Italy.

THE COURTSHIP
OF THE
YONGHY-BONGHY-BO.

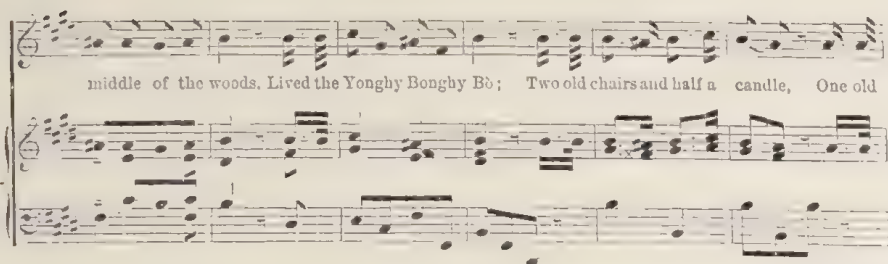
THE YONGHY BONGHY BÒ.

CANTO.



On the coast of Co-ro-man-del, Where the ear-ly pumpkins grow, In the

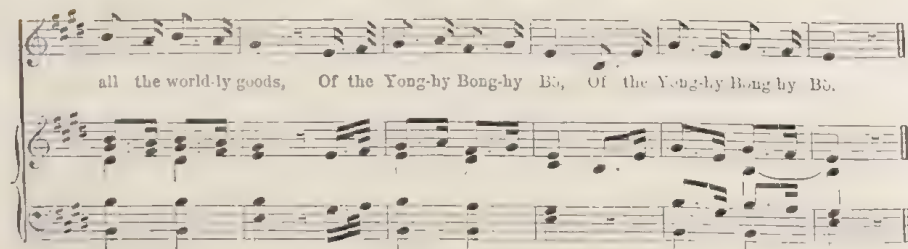
PIANO.



middle of the woods, Lived the Yonghy Bonghy Bò; Two old chairs and half a candle, One old



and half a candle; These were all his worldly goods, In the middle of the woods, These were



all the world-ly goods, Of the Yong-hy Bong-hy Bò, Of the Yong-hy Bong hy Bò.



THE COURTSHIP OF THE YONGHY-BONGHY-BÒ.

+

1.



ON the Coast of Coromandel
 Where the early pumpkins blow,
 In the middle of the woods
 Lived the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
 Two old chairs, and half a candle,—
 One old jug without a handle,—
 These were all his worldly goods :
 In the middle of the woods,
 These were all the worldly goods,
 Of the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
 Of the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.

II.

Once, among the Bong-trees walking
Where the early pumpkins blow,
To a little heap of stones
Came the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
There he heard a Lady talking,
To some milk-white Hens of Dorking,—
“’Tis the Lady Jingly Jones !
“ On that little heap of stones
“ Sits the Lady Jingle Jones !”
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.

III.

“ Lady Jingly ! Lady Jingly !
“ Sitting where the pumpkins blow,
“ Will you come and be my wife ?”
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
“ I am tired of living singly,—
“ On this coast so wild and shingly,—
“ I’m a-weary of my life ;
“ If you’ll come and be my wife,
“ Quite serene would be my life !”—
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.

IV.

"On this Coast of Coromandel,
"Shrimps and watercresses grow,
"Prawns are plentiful and cheap,"
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
"You shall have my chairs and candle,
"And my jug without a handle!—
"Gaze upon the rolling deep
("Fish is plentiful and cheap;")
"As the sea, my love is deep!"
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.

V.

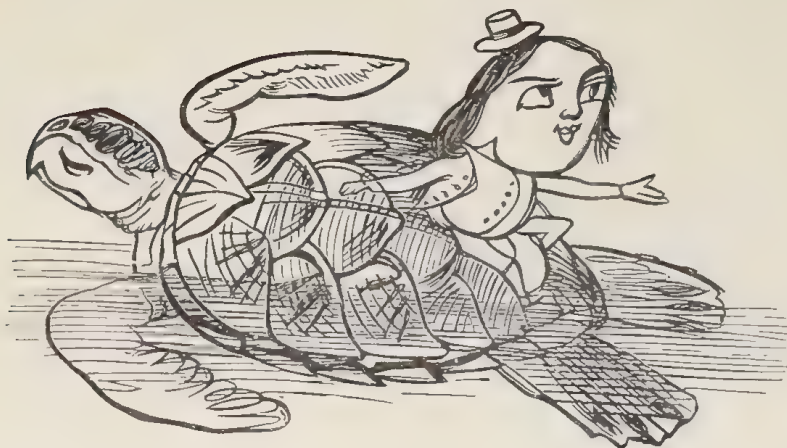
Lady Jingly answered sadly,
And her tears began to flow,—
"Your proposal comes too late,
"Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò!
"I would be your wife most gladly!"
(Here she twirled her fingers madly,)
"But in England I've a mate!
"Yes! you've asked me far too late,
"For in England I've a mate,
"Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò!
"Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bo!"

VI.

“ Mr. Jones—(his name is Handel,—
“ Handel Jones, Esquire, & Co.)
“ Dorking fowls delights to send,
“ Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò !
“ Keep, oh ! keep your chairs and candle,
“ And your jug without a handle,—
“ I can merely be your friend !
“ —Should my Jones more Dorkings send,
“ I will give you three, my friend !
“ Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò !
“ Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò !”

VII.

“ Though you’ve such a tiny body,
“ And your head so large doth grow,—
“ Though your hat may blow away,
“ Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò !
“ Though you’re such a Hoddy Doddy—
“ Yet I wish that I could modi-
“ fy the words I needs must say !
“ Will you please to go away ?
“ That is all I have to say—
“ Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò !
“ Mr. Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò !”



VIII.

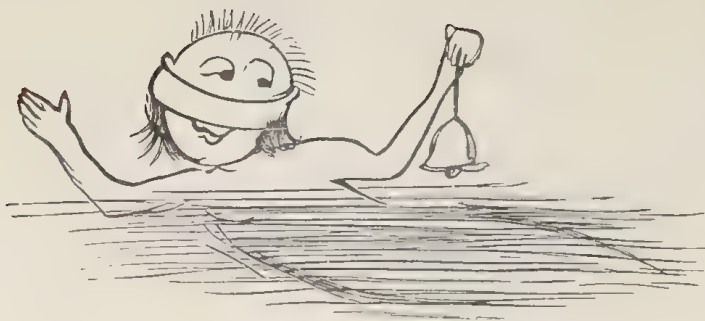
Down the slippery slopes of Myrtle,
Where the early pumpkins blow,
To the calm and silent sea
Fled the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
There, beyond the Bay of Gurtle,
Lay a large and lively Turtle ;—
“ You’re the Cove,” he said, “ for me ;
“ On your back beyond the sea,
“ Turtle, you shall carry me !”
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
Said the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.

IX.

Through the silent-roaring ocean
Did the Turtle swiftly go ;
Holding fast upon his shell
Rode the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
With a sad primæval motion
Towards the sunset isles of Boshen
Still the Turtle bore him well.
Holding fast upon his shell,
“Lady Jingly Jones, farewell !”
Sang the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
Sang the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.

X.

From the Coast of Coromandel,
Did that Lady never go ;
On that heap of stones she mourns
For the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.
On that Coast of Coromandel,
In his jug without a handle,
Still she weeps, and daily moans ;
On that little heap of stones
To her Dorking Hens she moans,
For the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò,
For the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bò.



THE POBBLE WHO HAS NO TOES.

- * -

I.

THE Pobble who has no toes
Had once as many as we ;
When they said, " Some day you may lose them all ;" —
He replied,—" Fish fiddle de-dee !"
And his Aunt Jobiska made him drink,
Lavender water tinged with pink,
For she said, " The World in general knows
There's nothing so good for a Pobble's toes !"

II.

The Pobble who has no toes,
Swam across the Bristol Channel ;

But before he set out he wrapped his nose,
In a piece of scarlet flannel.
For his Aunt Jobiska said, "No harm
"Can come to his toes if his nose is warm ;
"And it's perfectly known that a Pobble's toes
"Are safe,—provided he minds his nose."

III.

The Pobble swam fast and well,
And when boats or ships came near him
He tinkledy-binkledy-winkled a bell,
So that all the world could hear him.
And all the Sailors and Admirals cried,
When they saw him nearing the further side,—
"He has gone to fish, for his Aunt Jobiska's
"Runcible Cat with crimson whiskers !"

IV.

But before he touched the shore,
The shore of the Bristol Channel,
A sea-green Porpoise carried away
His wrapper of scarlet flannel.
And when he came to observe his feet,
Formerly garnished with toes so neat,
His face at once became forlorn
On perceiving that all his toes were gone !


V.

And nobody ever knew
From that dark day to the present,
Whoso had taken the Pobble's toes,
In a manner so far from pleasant.
Whether the shrimps or crawfish gray,
Or crafty Mermaids stole them away—
Nobody knew ; and nobody knows
How the Pobble was robbed of his twice five toes !

VI.

The Pobble who has no toes
Was placed in a friendly Bark,
And they rowed him back, and carried him up,
To his Aunt Jobiska's Park.
And she made him a feast at his earnest wish
Of eggs and buttercups fried with fish ;—
And she said,—“ It's a fact the whole world knows,
“ That Pobbles are happier without their toes.”

THE NEW VESTMENTS.

 HERE lived an old man in the Kingdom of Tess,
Who invented a purely original dress ;
And when it was perfectly made and complete,
He opened the door, and walked into the street.

By way of a hat he'd a loaf of Brown Bread,
In the middle of which he inserted his head ;—
His Shirt was made up of no end of dead Mice,
The warmth of whose skins was quite fluffy and nice ;—
His Drawers were of Rabbit-skins ;—so were his Shoes ;—
His Stockings were skins,—but it is not known whose ;—
His Waistcoat and Trowsers were made of Pork Chops ;—
His Buttons were Jujubes, and Chocolate Drops ;—
His Coat was all Pancakes with Jam for a border,
And a girdle of Biscuits to keep it in order ;
And he wore over all, as a screen from bad weather,
A Cloak of green Cabbage-leaves stitched all together.

He had walked a short way, when he heard a great noise,
Of all sorts of Beasticles, Birdlings, and Boys ;—

And from every long street and dark lane in the town
Beasts, Birdles, and Boys in a tumult rushed down.
Two Cows and a Calf ate his Cabbage-leaf Cloak ;—
Four Apes seized his Girdle, which vanished like smoke ;—
Three Kids ate up half of his Pancaky Coat,—
And the tails were devoured by an ancient He Goat ;—
An army of Dogs in a twinkling tore *up* his
Pork Waistcoat and Trowsers to give to their Puppies ;—
And while they were growling, and mumbling the Chops,
Ten Boys prigged the Jujubes and Chocolate Drops.—
He tried to run back to his house, but in vain,
For scores of fat Pigs came again and again ;—
They rushed out of stables and hovels and doors,—
They tore off his stockings, his shoes, and his drawers ;—
And now from the housetops with screechings descend,
Striped, spotted, white, black, and gray cats without end,
They jumped on his shoulders and knocked off his hat,—
When Crows, Ducks and Hens made a mincemeat of that ;—
They speedily flew at his sleeves in a trice,
And utterly tore up his Shirt of dead Mice ;—
They swallowed the last of his Shirt with a squall,—
Whereon he ran home with no clothes on at all.

And he said to himself as he bolted the door,
“ I will not wear a similar dress any more,
“ Any more, any more, any more, never more ! ”

MR. AND MRS. DISCOBBOLOS.

I.



R. AND MRS. DISCOBBOLOS

Climbed to the top of a wall,
And they sate to watch the sunset sky
And to hear the Nupiter Piffkin cry
And the Biscuit Buffalo call.
They took up a roll and some Camomile tea,
And both were as happy as happy could be—
Till Mrs. Discobbolos said,—
“Oh! W! X! Y! Z!
“It has just come into my head—
“Suppose we should happen to fall!!!!
“Darling Mr. Discobbolos!

II.

“Suppose we should fall down flumpetty
“Just like two pieces of stone!
“On to the thorns,—or into the moat!
“What would become of your new green coat?
“And might you not break a bone?

"It never occurred to me before—
"That perhaps we shall never go down any more!"
And Mrs. Discobolos said—
"Oh! W! X! Y! Z!
"What put it into your head
"To climb up this wall?—my own
"Darling Mr. Discobolos?"

III.

Mr. Discobolos answered,—
"At first it gave me pain,—
"And I felt my ears turn perfectly pink
"When your exclamation made me think
"We might never get down again!
"But now I believe it is wiser far
"To remain for ever just where we are."—
And Mr. Discobolos said,
"Oh! W! X! Y! Z!
"It has just come into my head—
"——We shall never go down again—
"Dearest Mrs. Discobolos!"

IV.

So Mr. and Mrs. Discobolos
Stood up, and began to sing,
"Far away from hurry and strife

"Here we will pass the rest of life,

"Ding a dong, ding dong, ding!

"We want no knives nor forks nor chairs,

"No tables nor carpets nor household cares,

"From worry of life we've fled—

"Oh! W! X! Y! Z!

"There is no more trouble ahead

"Sorrow or any such thing—

"For Mr. and Mrs. Discobolos!"



THE QUANGLE WANGLE'S HAT.

I.

QUEN the top of the Crumpetty Tree
 The Quangle Wangle sat,
 But his face you could not see,
 On account of his Beaver Hat.
 For his Hat was a hundred and two feet wide,
 With ribbons and bibbons on every side
 And bells, and buttons, and loops, and lace,
 So that nobody ever could see the face
 Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.

II.

The Quangle Wangle said
 To himself on the Crumpetty Tree,—
 "Jam; and jelly; and bread;
 "Are the best of food for me!

“ But the longer I live on this Crumpetty Tree,
“ The plainer than ever it seems to me
“ That very few people come this way,
“ And that life on the whole is far from gay !”
Said the Quangle Wangle Quee.

III.

But there came to the Crumpetty Tree,
Mr. and Mrs. Canary ;
And they said,—“ Did ever you see
“ Any spot so charmingly airy ?
“ May we build a nest on your lovely Hat ?
“ Mr. Quangle Wangle, grant us that !
“ O please let us come and build a nest
“ Of whatever material suits you best,
“ Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee !”

IV.

And besides, to the Crumpetty Tree
Came the Stork, the Duck, and the Owl ;
The Snail and the Bumble-Bee,
The Frog, and the Fimble Fowl ;
(The Fimble Fowl, with a Corkscrew leg ;)
And all of them said,—“ We humbly beg,
“ We may build our homes on your lovely Hat,—
“ Mr. Quangle Wangle, grant us that !
“ Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee !”

V.

And the Golden Grouse came there,
And the Pobble who has no toes,—
And the small Olympian bear,—
And the Dong with a luminous nose.
And the Blue Baboon, who played the flute,—
And the Orient Calf from the Land of Tute, —
And the Attery Squash, and the Bisky Bat,—
All came and built on the lovely Hat
Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.


VI.

And the Quangle Wangle said
To himself on the Crumpetty Tree,—
“When all these creatures move
“What a wonderful noise there’ll be!”
And at night by the light of the Mulberry moon
They danced to the Flute of the Blue Baboon,
On the broad green leaves of the Crumpetty Tree,
And all were as happy as happy could be,
With the Quangle Wangle Quee.

THE CUMMERBUND.

AN INDIAN POEM.

I.

 HE sate upon her Dobie,
To watch the Evening Star,
And all the Punkahs as they passed,
Cried, "My! how fair you are!"
Around her bower, with quivering leaves,
The tall Kamsamahs grew,
And Kitmutgars in wild festoons
Hung down from Tchokis blue.

II.

Below her home the river rolled
With soft meloobious sound,
Where golden-finned Chuprassies swam,
In myriads circling round.
Above, on tallest trees remote
Green Ayahs perched alone,
And all night long the Mussak moan'd
Its melancholy tone.

III.

And where the purple Nullahs threw
Their branches far and wide,—
And silvery Goreewallahs flew
In silence, side by side,—
The little Bheesties' twittering cry
Rose on the fragrant air,
And oft the angry Jampan howled
Deep in his hateful lair.

IV.

She sate upon her Dobie,—
She heard the Nimmak hum,—
When all at once a cry arose :
“ The Cummerbund is come !”
In vain she fled ;—with open jaws
The angry monster followed,
And so, (before assistance came.)
That Lady Fair was swallowed.

V.

They sought in vain for even a bone
Respectfully to bury,—
They said, “ Hers was a dreadful fate !”
(And Echo answered “ Very.”)
They nailed her Dobie to the wall,
Where last her form was seen,

And underneath they wrote these words,
In yellow, blue, and green :—

Beware, ye Fair ! Ye Fair, beware !
Nor sit out late at night,—
Lest horrid Cummerbunds should come,
And swallow you outright.

NOTE.—First published in *Times of India*, Bombay, July 1874.

THE AKOND OF SWAT.



HO, or why, or which, or *what*, Is the Akond of SWAT?

Is he tall or short, or dark or fair?

Does he sit on a stool or a sofa or chair, or SQUAT,

The Akond of Swat?

Is he wise or foolish, young or old?

Does he drink his soup and his coffee cold, or HOT,

The Akond of Swat?

Does he sing or whistle, jabber or talk,

And when riding abroad does he gallop or walk, or TROT,

The Akond of Swat?

Does he wear a turban, a fez, or a hat?

Does he sleep on a mattress, a bed, or a mat, or a COT,

The Akond of Swat?

When he writes a copy in round-hand size,

Does he cross his T's and finish his I's with a DOT,

The Akond of Swat?

Can he write a letter concisely clear

Without a speck or a smudge or smear or BLOT,

The Akond of Swat?

Do his people like him extremely well?

Or do they, whenever they can, rebel,

OR PLOT,

At the Akond of Swat?

If he catches them then, either old or young,

Does he have them chopped in pieces or hung, or *shot*,

The Akond of Swat ?

Do his people prig in the lanes or park?

Or even at times, when days are dark,

GAROTTE ?

O the Akond of Swat!

Does he study the wants of his own dominion?

Or doesn't he care for public opinion

a JOT,

The Akond of Swat?

To amuse his mind do his people show him

Pictures, or any one's last new poem,

OF WHAT,

For the Akond of Swat?

At night if he suddenly screams and wakes,

Do they bring him only a few small cakes, or a LOT.

For the Akond of Swat?

Does he live on turnips, tea, or tripe ?

Does he like his shawl to be marked with a stripe, or a DOT,

The Akond of Swat ?

Does he like to lie on his back in a boat

Like the lady who lived in that isle remote,

SHALLOTT,

The Akond of Swat ?

Is he quiet, or always making a fuss?

Is his steward a Swiss or a Swede or a Russ,

or a SCOT.

The Akond of Swat?

Does he like to sit by the calm blue wave ?
to sleep and snore in a dark green cave, or a GROTT,
The Akond of Swat ?

Does he drink small beer from a silver jug ?
Or a bowl ? or a glass ? or a cup ? or a mug ? or a POT,
The Akond of Swat ?

Does he beat his wife with a gold-topped pipe,
When she lets the gooseberries grow too ripe, or ROT,
The Akond of Swat ?

Does he wear a white tie when he dines with friends,
And tie it neat in a bow with ends, or a KNOT,
The Akond of Swat ?

Does he like new cream, and hate mince-pies ?
When he looks at the sun does he wink his eyes, or NOT,
The Akond of Swat ?

Does he teach his subjects to roast and bake ?
Does he sail about on an inland lake, in a YACHT,
The Akond of Swat ?

Some one, or nobody, knows I wot
Who or which or why or what
Is the Akond of Swat !

NOTE.—For the existence of this potentate see Indian newspapers, *passim*. The proper way to read the verses is to make an immense emphasis on the monosyllabic rhymes, which indeed ought to be shouted out by a chorus.

NONSENSE STORIES.

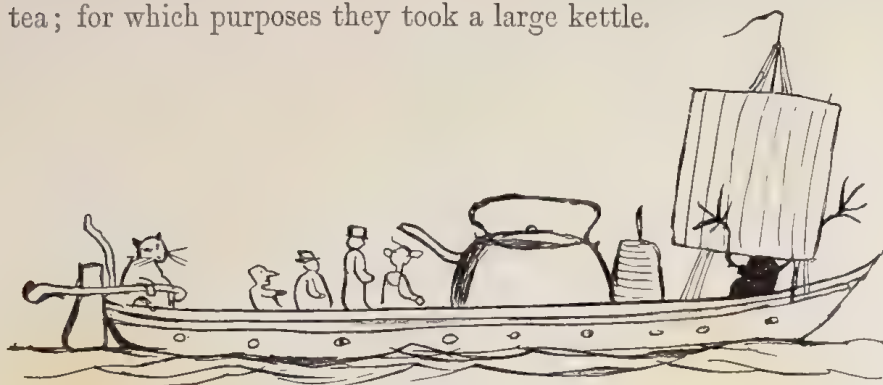
THE STORY OF THE FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN
WHO WENT ROUND THE WORLD.

ONCE upon a time, a long while ago, there were four
little people whose names were



VIOLET, SLINGSBY, GUY, and LIONEL;
and they all thought they should like to see the world.
So they bought a large boat to sail quite round the world by
sea, and then they were to come back on the other side by land.
The boat was painted blue with green spots, and the sail was
yellow with red stripes; and when they set off, they only took a
small Cat to steer and look after the boat, besides an elderly

Quangle-Wangle, who had to cook the dinner and make the tea; for which purposes they took a large kettle.



For the first ten days they sailed on beautifully, and found plenty to eat, as there were lots of fish, and they had only to take them out of the sea with a long spoon, when the Quangle-Wangle instantly cooked them, and the Pussy-Cat was fed with the bones, with which she expressed herself pleased on the whole, so that all the party were very happy.

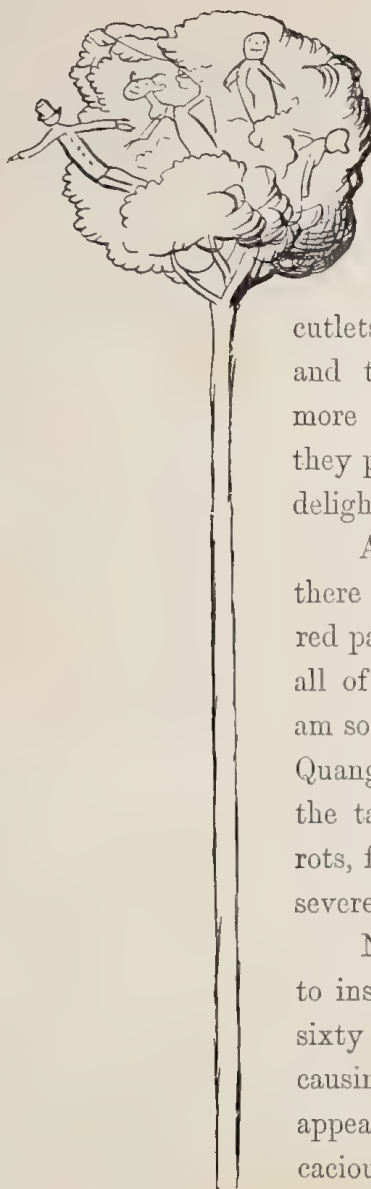


During the day-time, Violet chiefly occupied herself in putting salt-water into a churn, while her three brothers churned it violently, in the hope that it would turn into butter, which it seldom, if ever did; and in the evening they all retired into the Tea-kettle, where they all managed to sleep very comfortably, while Pussy and the Quangle-Wangle managed the boat.



After a time they saw some land at a distance; and when they came to it, they found it was an island made of water quite surrounded by earth. Besides that, it was bordered by evanescent isthmuses with a great Gulf-stream running about all over it, so that it was perfectly beautiful, and contained only a single tree, 503 feet high.

When they had landed, they walked about, but found to their great surprise that the island was quite full of veal-cutlets and chocolate-drops, and nothing else. So they all climbed up the single high tree to discover, if possible, if there were



any people; but having remained on the top of the tree for a week, and not seeing any body, they naturally concluded that there were no inhabitants, and accordingly when they came down they loaded the boat with two thousand veal-cutlets and a million of chocolate drops, and these afforded them sustenance for more than a month, during which time they pursued their voyage with the utmost delight and apathy.

After this they came to a shore where there were no less than sixty-five great red parrots with blue tails, sitting on a rail all of a row, and all fast asleep. And I am sorry to say that the Pussy-Cat and the Quangle-Wangle crept softly and bit off the tail-feathers of all the sixty-five parrots, for which Violet reproved them both severely.

Notwithstanding which, she proceeded to insert all the feathers, two hundred and sixty in number, in her bonnet, thereby causing it to have a lovely and glittering appearance, highly prepossessing and efficacious.



The next thing that happened to them was in a narrow part of the sea, which was so entirely full of fishes that the boat



could go on no further; so they remained there about six weeks, till they had eaten nearly all the fishes, which were Soles, and all ready-cooked and covered with shrimp sauce, so that there was no trouble whatever. And as the few fishes who remained uneaten complained of the cold, as well as of the

difficulty they had in getting any sleep on account of the extreme noise made by the Arctic Bears and the Tropical Turnspits, which frequented the neighbourhood in great numbers, Violet most amiably knitted a small woollen frock for



several of the fishes, and Slingsby administered some opium drops to them, through which kindness they became quite warm and slept soundly.

Then they came to a country which was wholly covered with immense Orange-trees of a vast size, and quite full of fruit. So they all landed, taking with them the Tea-kettle, intending to gather some of the Oranges and place them in it. But while they were busy about this, a most dreadfully high wind rose, and blew out most of the parrot-tail feathers from Violet's bonnet. That, however, was nothing compared with the calamity of the Oranges falling down on their heads by

millions and millions, which thumped and bumped and bumped and thumped them all so seriously that they were obliged to run as hard as they could for their lives, besides that the sound of the Oranges rattling on the Tea-kettle was of the most fearful and amazing nature.



Nevertheless they got safely to the boat, although considerably vexed and hurt ; and the Quangle-Wangle's right



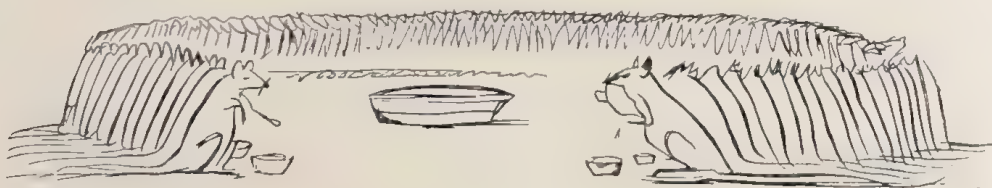
foot was so knocked about that he had to sit with his head in his slipper for at least a week.

This event made them all for a time rather melancholy, and perhaps they might never have become less so, had not Lionel, with a most praiseworthy devotion and perseverance, continued to stand on one leg and whistle to them in a loud



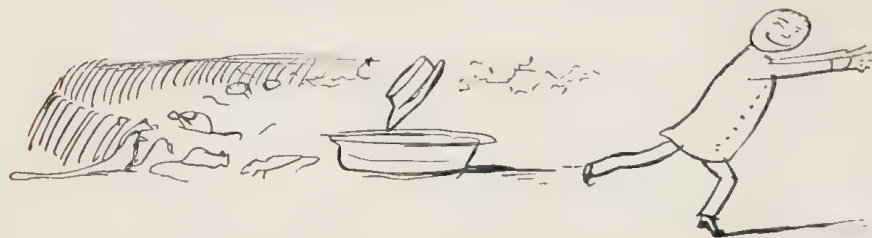
and lively manner, which diverted the whole party so extremely, that they gradually recovered their spirits, and agreed that whenever they should reach home they would subscribe towards a testimony to Lionel, entirely made of Gingerbread and Raspberries, as an earnest token of their sincere and grateful infection.

After sailing on calmly for several more days, they came to another country, where they were much pleased and sur-



prised to see a countless multitude of white Mice with red eyes, all sitting in a great circle, slowly eating Custard Pudding with the most satisfactory and polite demeanour.

And as the four Travellers were rather hungry, being tired of eating nothing but Soles and Oranges for so long a period, they held a council as to the propriety of asking the Mice for some of their pudding in a humble and affecting manner, by which they could hardly be otherwise than gratified. It was agreed therefore that Guy should go and ask the Mice, which he immediately did; and the result was that they gave a Walnut-shell only half full of Custard diluted with water. Now, this displeased Guy, who said, "Out of such a lot of Pudding as you have got, I must say you might have spared a somewhat larger quantity!" But no sooner had he finished speaking than all the Mice turned round at once, and sneezed at him in an



appalling and vindictive manner, (and it is impossible to imagine a more scroobious and unpleasant sound than that caused by the simultaneous sneezing of many millions of angry Mice.) so that Guy rushed back to the boat, having first shied his cap into the middle of the Custard Pudding, by which means he completely spoiled the Mice's dinner.

By-and-by the Four Children came to a country where there were no houses, but only an incredibly innumerable number of large bottles without corks, and of a dazzling and sweetly susceptible blue colour. Each of these blue bottles contained a Blue-Bottle-Fly, and all these interesting animals live continually together in the most copious and rural harmony, nor perhaps in many parts of the world is such perfect and abject happiness to be found. Violet, and Slingsby, and Guy, and Lionel, were greatly struck with this singular and instructive settlement, and having previously asked permission of the Blue-Bottle-Flies, (which was most courteously granted,) the boat was drawn up to the shore, and they proceeded to make



tea in front of the bottles; but as they had no tea-leaves, they merely placed some pebbles in the hot water, and the Quangle-Wangle played some tunes over it on an Accordion, by which of course tea was made directly, and of the very best quality.

The Four Children then entered into conversation with the Blue-Bottle-Flies, who discoursed in a placid and genteel manner,

though with a slightly buzzing accent, chiefly owing to the fact that they each held a small clothes-brush between their teeth, which naturally occasioned a fizzy extraneous utterance.

"Why," said Violet, "would you kindly inform us, do you reside in bottles? and if in bottles at all, why not rather in green or purple, or indeed in yellow bottles?"

To which questions a very aged Blue-Bottle-Fly answered, "We found the bottles here all ready to live in, that is to say, our great-great-great-great-great-grandfathers did, so we occupied them at once. And when the winter comes on, we turn the bottles upside-down, and consequently rarely feel the cold at all, and you know very well that this could not be the case with bottles of any other colour than blue."

"Of course it could not," said Slingsby; "but if we may take the liberty of inquiring, on what do you chiefly subsist?"

"Mainly on Oyster-patties," said the Blue-Bottle-Fly, "and when these are scarce, on Raspberry Vinegar and Russian leather boiled down to a jelly."

"How delicious!" said Guy.

To which Lionel added, "Huzz!" and all the Blue-Bottle-Flies said "Buzz!"

At this time, an elderly Fly said it was the hour for the Evening-song to be sung; and on a signal being given all the Blue-Bottle-Flies began to buzz at once in a sumptuous and sonorous manner, the melodious and mucilaginous sounds echoing all over the waters, and resounding across the tumultuous tops of the transitory Titmice upon the intervening and verdant

mountains, with a serene and sickly suavity only known to the truly virtuous. The Moon was shining slobaciously from the star-bespangled sky, while her light irrigated the smooth and shiny sides and wings and backs of the Blue-Bottle-Flies with a peculiar and trivial splendour, while all nature cheerfully responded to the cerulæan and conspicuous circumstances.

In many long-after years, the four little Travellers looked back to that evening as one of the happiest in all their lives, and it was already past midnight, when—the sail of the boat having been set up by the Quangle-Wangle, the Tea-kettle and Churn placed in their respective positions, and the Pussy-Cat stationed at the helm—the Children each took a last and affectionate farewell of the Blue-Bottle-Flies, who walked down in a body to the water's edge to see the Travellers embark.

As a token of parting respect and esteem, Violet made a curtsy quite down to the ground, and stuck one of her few



remaining Parrot-tail feathers into the back hair of the most pleasing of the Blue-Bottle-Flies, while Slingsby, Guy, and

Lionel offered them three small boxes, containing respectively Black Pins, Dried Figs, and Epsom Salts: and thus they left that happy shore for ever.

Overcome by their feelings, the four little Travellers instantly jumped into the Tea-kettle, and fell fast asleep. But all along the shore for many hours there was distinctly heard a sound of severely suppressed sobs, and a vague multitude of living creatures using their pocket-handkerchiefs in a subdued simultaneous snuffle—lingering sadly along the wallopping waves, as the boat sailed farther and farther away from the Land of the Happy Blue-Bottle-Flies.

Nothing particular occurred for some days after these events, except that as the Travellers were passing a low tract of sand, they perceived an unusual and gratifying spectacle, namely, a large number of Crabs and Crawfish—perhaps six or seven hundred—sitting by the waterside, and endeavouring to disentangle a vast heap of pale pink worsted, which they moistened at intervals with a fluid composed of Lavender-water and White-wine Negus.

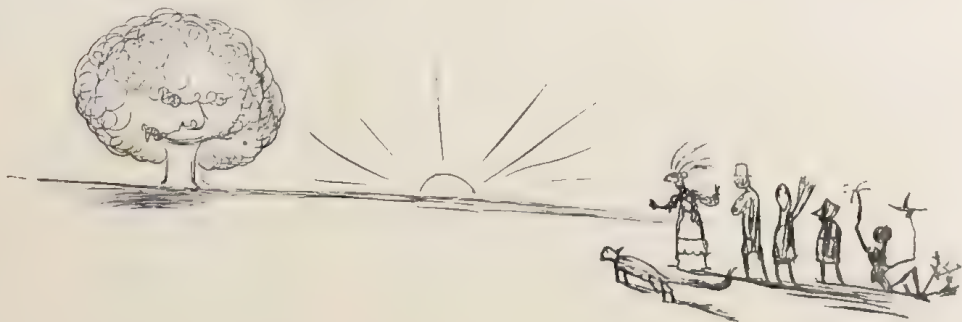
“Can we be of any service to you, O crusty Crabbies?” said the Four Children.

“Thank you kindly,” said the Crabs, consecutively. “We are trying to make some worsted Mittens, but do not know how.”

On which Violet, who was perfectly acquainted with the art of mitten-making, said to the Crabs, “Do your claws unscrew, or are they fixtures?”

"They are all made to unscrew," said the Crabs, and forthwith they deposited a great pile of claws close to the boat, with which Violet uncombed all the pale pink worsted, and then made the loveliest Mittens with it you can imagine. These the Crabs, having resumed and screwed on their claws, placed cheerfully upon their wrists, and walked away rapidly, on their hind legs, warbling songs with a silvery voice and in a minor key.

After this the four little people sailed on again till they came to a vast and wide plain of astonishing dimensions, on which nothing whatever could be discovered at first; but as the Travellers walked onward, there appeared in the extreme and dim distance a single object, which on a nearer approach, and on an accurately cutaneous inspection, seemed to be somebody in a large white wig sitting on an arm-chair made of Sponge Cakes and Oyster-shells. "It does not quite look like a human being," said Violet doubtfully; nor could they make out what it really was, till the Quangle-Wangle (who had previously been round the world) exclaimed softly in a loud voice, "It is the Co-operative Cauliflower!"



And so in truth it was, and they soon found that what they had taken for an immense wig was in reality the top of the cauliflower, and that he had no feet at all, being able to walk tolerably well with a fluctuating and graceful movement on a single cabbage stalk, an accomplishment which naturally saved him the expense of stockings and shoes.

Presently, while the whole party from the boat was gazing at him with mingled affection and disgust, he suddenly arose, and in a somewhat plumbdomphious manner hurried off towards the setting sun,—his steps supported by two superincumbent



confidential cucumbers, and a large number of Waterwagtails proceeding in advance of him by three-and-three in a row,—till he finally disappeared on the brink of the western sky in a crystal cloud of sudorific sand.

So remarkable a sight of course impressed the Four Children very deeply; and they returned immediately to their boat with a strong sense of undeveloped asthma and a great appetite.

Shortly after this the Travellers were obliged to sail directly below some high overhanging rocks, from the top of one of

which a particularly odious little boy, dressed in rose-coloured knickerbockers, and with a pewter plate upon his head, threw an enormous Pumpkin at the boat, by which it was instantly upset.



But this upsetting was of no consequence, because all the party knew how to swim very well, and in fact they preferred swimming about till after the moon rose, when, the water growing chilly, they sponge-taneously entered the boat. Meanwhile the Qwangle-Wangle threw back the Pumpkin with immense force, so that it hit the rocks where the malicious little boy in rose-coloured knickerbockers was sitting, when, being quite full of Lucifer-matches, the Pumpkin exploded surreptitiously into a thousand bits, whereon the rocks instantly took fire, and the odious little boy became unpleasantly hotter and hotter and hotter, till his knickerbockers were turned quite green, and his nose was burned off.

Two or three days after this had happened they came to another place, where they found nothing at all except some wide and deep pits full of Mulberry Jam. This is the property of the tiny yellow-nosed Apes who abound in these districts, and who store up the Mulberry Jam for their food in winter, when they mix it with pellucid pale perwinkle soup, and serve it out in Wedgwood China bowls, which grow freely all over that part of the country. Only one of the Yellow-nosed Apes was on the spot, and he was fast asleep: yet the Four Travellers and the Quangle-Wangle and Pussy were so terrified by the violence and sanguinary sound of his snoring, that they merely took a small cupful of the Jam, and returned to re-embark in their boat without delay.

What was their horror on seeing the boat (including the Churn and the Tea-kettle) in the mouth of an enormous Seeze Pyder, an aquatic and ferocious creature truly dreadful to behold, and happily only met with in those excessive longitudes. In a moment the beautiful boat was bitten into fifty-five-



thousand-million-hundred-billion bits; and it instantly became

quite clear that Violet, Slingsby, Guy, and Lionel could no longer prelimate their voyage by sea.

The Four Travellers were therefore obliged to resolve on pursuing their wanderings by land, and very fortunately there happened to pass by at that moment an elderly Rhinoceros, on which they seized; and all four mounting on his back, the



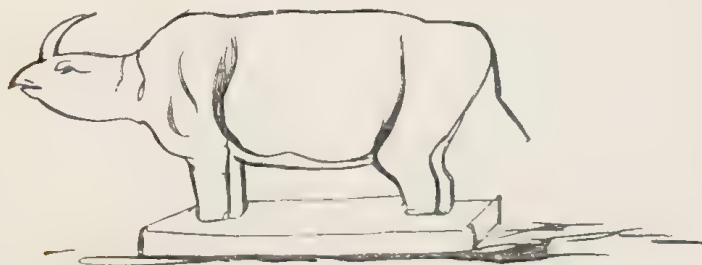
Quangle-Wangle sitting on his horn and holding on by his ears, and the Pussy-Cat swinging at the end of his tail, they set off, having only four small beans and three pounds of mashed potatoes to last through their whole journey.

They were, however, able to catch numbers of the chickens and turkeys and other birds who incessantly alighted on the head of the Rhinoceros for the purpose of gathering the seeds of the rhododendron plants which grew there, and these creatures they cooked in the most translucent and satisfactory manner, by means of a fire lighted on the end of the Rhinoceros'

back. A crowd of Kangaroos and Gigantic Cranes accompanied them, from feelings of curiosity and complacency, so that they were never at a loss for company, and went onward as it were in a sort of profuse and triumphant procession.

Thus, in less than eighteen weeks, they all arrived safely at home, where they were received by their admiring relatives with joy tempered with contempt; and where they finally resolved to carry out the rest of their travelling plans at some more favourable opportunity.


As for the Rhinoceros, in token of their grateful adherence, they had him killed and stuffed directly, and then set him up outside the door of their father's house as a Diaphanous Doorscraper.



THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN FAMILIES OF THE LAKE PIPPLE-POPPLE.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

N former days—that is to say, once upon a time, there lived in the Land of Gramblamble, Seven Families. They lived by the side of the great Lake Pipple-Popple (one of the Seven Families, indeed, lived *in* the Lake), and on the outskirts of the City of Tosh, which, excepting when it was quite dark, they could see plainly. The names of all these places you have probably heard of, and you have only not to look in your Geography books to find out all about them.

Now the Seven Families who lived on the borders of the great Lake Pipple-Popple, were as follows in the next Chapter.

CHAPTER II.

THE SEVEN FAMILIES.



HERE was a family of Two old Parrots and Seven young Parrots.



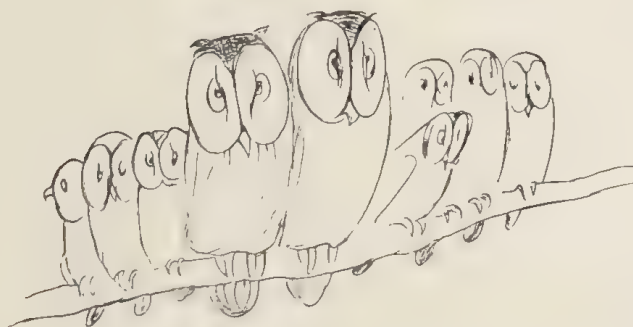
There was a family of Two old Storks and Seven young Storks.



There was a Family of Two old Geese and Seven young Geese.



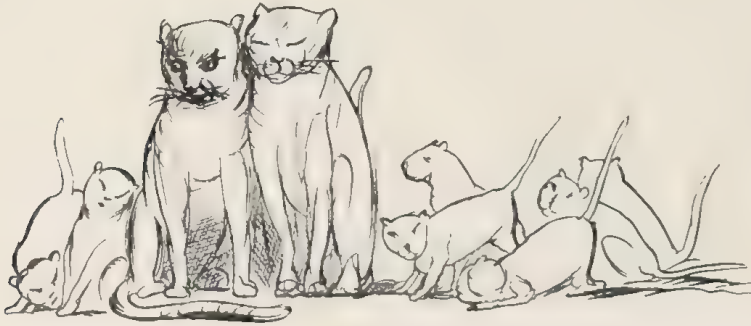
There was a Family of Two old Owls and Seven young Owls.



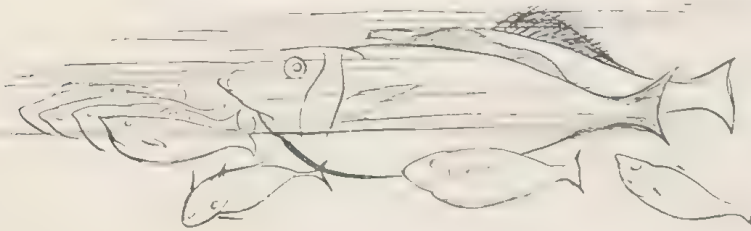
There was a Family of Two old Guinea Pigs and Seven young Guinea Pigs.



There was a Family of Two old Cats and Seven young Cats.



And there was a Family of Two old Fishes and Seven young Fishes.



CHAPTER III.

THE HABITS OF THE SEVEN FAMILIES.



THE Parrots lived upon the Soffsky-Poffsky trees,—which were beautiful to behold, and covered with blue leaves,—and they fed upon fruit, artichokes, and striped beetles.

The Storks walked in and out of the Lake Pipple-Popple, and ate frogs for breakfast and buttered toast for tea ; but on account of the extreme length of their legs, they could not sit down, and so they walked about continually.

The Geese, having webs to their feet, caught quantities of flies, which they ate for dinner.

The Owls anxiously looked after mice, which they caught and made into sago puddings.

The Guinea Pigs toddled about the gardens, and ate lettuces and Cheshire cheese.

The Cats sate still in the sunshine, and fed upon sponge biscuits.

The Fishes lived in the Lake, and fed chiefly on boiled periwinkles.

And all these Seven Families lived together in the utmost fun and felicity.

CHAPTER IV.

THE CHILDREN OF THE SEVEN FAMILIES ARE SENT AWAY.



ONE day all the Seven Fathers and the Seven Mothers of the Seven Families agreed that they would send their children out to see the world.

So they called them all together, and give them each eight shillings and some good advice, some chocolate drops, and a small green morocco pocket-book to set down their expenses in.

They then particularly entreated them not to quarrel, and all the parents sent off their children with a parting injunction.

"If," said the old Parrots, "you find a Cherry, do not fight about who shall have it."

"And," said the old Storks, "if you find a Frog, divide it carefully into seven bits, but on no account quarrel about it."

And the old Geese said to the Seven young Geese, "Whatever you do, be sure you do not touch a Plum-pudding Flea."

And the old Owls said, "If you find a Mouse, tear him up into seven slices, and eat him cheerfully, but without quarrelling."

And the old Guinea Pigs said, "Have a care that you eat your Lettuces, should you find any, not greedily but calmly."

And the old Cats said, "Be particularly careful not to meddle with a Clangle-Wangle, if you should see one."

And the old Fishes said, "Above all things avoid eating a blue Boss-Woss, for they do not agree with Fishes, and give them a pain in their toes."

So all the Children of each Family thanked their parents, and making in all forty-nine polite bows, they went into the wide world.



CHAPTER V.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN YOUNG PARROTS.



THE Seven young Parrots had not gone far, when they saw a tree with a single Cherry on it, which the oldest Parrot picked instantly, but the other six being extremely hungry, tried to get it also. On which all the Seven began to fight, and they scuffled,

and huffed,

and ruffled,

and shuffled,

and puffed,

and muffled,

and buffled.

and duffed,

and fluffed.

and guffed,

and bruffed, and


screamed, and shrieked, and squealed, and squeaked, and clawed, and snapped, and bit, and bumped, and thumped, and dumped, and flumped each other, till they were all torn into little bits, and at last there was nothing left to record this painful incident, except the Cherry and seven small green feathers

And that was the vicious and voluble end of the Seven young Parrots.



CHAPTER VI.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN YOUNG STORKS.

HEN the Seven young Storks set out, they walked or flew for fourteen weeks in a straight line, and for six weeks more in a crooked one; and after that they ran as hard as they could for one hundred and eight miles; and after that they stood still and made a himmeltanious chatter-clatter-blattery noise with their bills.

About the same time they perceived a large Frog, spotted with green, and with a sky-blue stripe under each ear.

So being hungry, they immediately flew at him and were going to divide him into seven pieces, when they began to quarrel as to which of his legs should be taken off first. One said this, and another said that, and while they were all quarrelling the Frog hopped away. And when they saw that he was gone, they began to chatter-clatter,

blatter-platter,

patter-blatter,

matter-clatter,

flatter-quatter, more violently than ever. And after they had fought for a week they pecked

each other to little pieces, so that at last nothing was left of any of them except their bills.

And that was the end of the Seven young Storks.



CHAPTER VII.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN YOUNG GEESE.

WHEN the Seven young Geese began to travel, they went over a large plain, on which there was but one tree, and that was a very bad one.

So four of them went up to the top of it, and looked about them, while the other three waddled up and down, and repeated poetry, and their last six lessons in Arithmetic, Geography, and Cookery.

Presently they perceived, a long way off, an object of the most interesting and obese appearance, having a perfectly round body, exactly resembling a boiled plum-pudding, with two little wings, and a beak, and three feathers growing out of his head, and only one leg.

So after a time all the Seven young Geese said to each other, "Beyond all doubt this beast must be a Plum-pudding Flea!"

On which they incautiously began to sing aloud,

"Plum-pudding Flea,

"Plum-pudding Flea,

"Wherever you be,

"O come to our tree,

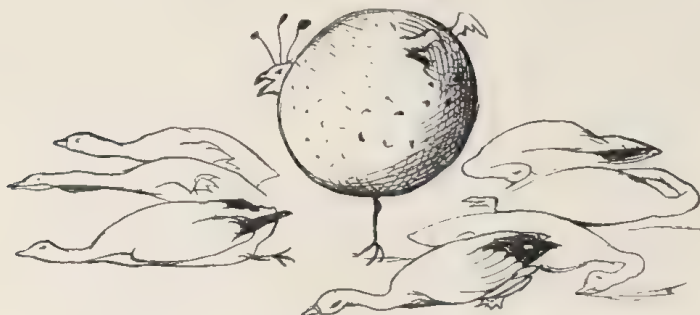
"And listen, O listen, O listen to me!"

And no sooner had they sung this verse than the Plum-pudding Flea began to hop and skip on his one leg with the most dreadful velocity, and came straight to the tree, where he stopped and looked about him in a vacant and voluminous manner.

On which the Seven young Geese were greatly alarmed, and all of a tremble-bemble: so one of them put out his long neck and just touched him with the tip of his bill,—but no sooner had he done this than the Plum-pudding Flea skipped and hopped about more and more and higher and higher, after which he opened his mouth, and to the great surprise and indignation of the Seven Geese, began to bark so loudly and furiously and terribly that they were totally unable to bear the

noise, and by degrees every one of them suddenly tumbled down quite dead.

So that was the end of the Seven young Geese.



CHAPTER VIII.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN YOUNG OWLS.



WHEN the Seven young Owls set out, they sat every now and then on the branches of old trees, and never went far at one time.

And one night when it was quite dark, they thought they heard a mouse, but as the gas lamps were not lighted, they could not see him.

So they called out, "Is that a mouse?"

On which a Mouse answered, "Squeaky-peeky-weeky, yes it is."

And immediately all the young Owls threw themselves

off the tree, meaning to alight on the ground ; but they did not perceive that there was a large well below them, into which they all fell superficially, and were every one of them drowned in less than half a minute.

So that was the end of the Seven young Owls.



CHAPTER IX.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN YOUNG GUINEA PIGS.

THE Seven young Guinea Pigs went into a garden full of Gooseberry-bushes and Tiggory-trees, under one of which they fell asleep. When they awoke they saw a large Lettuce which had grown out of the ground while they had been sleeping, and which had an immense number of green leaves. At which they all exclaimed,

"Lettuce! O Lettuce!

"Let us, O let us,

"O Lettuce leaves,

"O let us leave this tree and eat

"Lettuce, O let us, Lettuce leaves!"

And instantly the Seven young Guinea Pigs rushed with such extreme force against the Lettuce-plant, and hit their heads so vividly against its stalk, that the concussion brought on directly an incipient transitional inflammation of their noses, which grew worse and worse and worse and worse till it incidentally killed them all Seven.

And that was the end of the Seven young Guinea Pigs.



CHAPTER X.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN YOUNG CATS.



THE Seven young Cats set off on their travels with great delight and rapacity. But, on coming to the top of a high hill, they perceived at a long distance

of a Clangle-Wangle (or, as it is more properly written, Clangel-Wangel), and in spite of the warning they had had, they ran straight up to it.

(Now the Clangle-Wangle is a most dangerous and delusive beast, and by no means commonly to be met with. They live in the water as well as on land, using their long tail as a sail when in the former element. Their speed is extreme, but their habits of life are domestic and superfluous, and their general demeanour pensive and pellucid. On summer evenings they may sometimes be observed near the Lake Pipple-popple, standing on their heads and humming their national melodies: they subsist entirely on vegetables, excepting when they eat veal, or mutton, or pork, or beef, or fish, or saltpetre.)

The moment the Clangle-Wangle saw the Seven young Cats approach, he ran away; and as he ran straight on for four months, and the Cats, though they continued to run, could never overtake him,—they all gradually *died* of fatigue and exhaustion, and never afterwards recovered.

And this was the end of the Seven young Cats.



CHAPTER XL.

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN FISHES.

THE Seven young Fishes swam across the Lake Pipple-popple, and into the river, and into the ocean, where most unhappily for them they saw, on the fifteenth day of their travels, a bright-blue Boss-Woss, and instantly swam after him. But the Blue Boss-Woss plunged into a perpendicular,

spicular,

orbicular,

quadrangular,

circular depth of soft mud,

where in fact his house was.

And the Seven young Fishes, swimming with great and uncomfortable velocity, plunged also into the mud, quite against their will, and not being accustomed to it, were all suffocated in a very short period.

And that was the end of the Seven young Fishes.

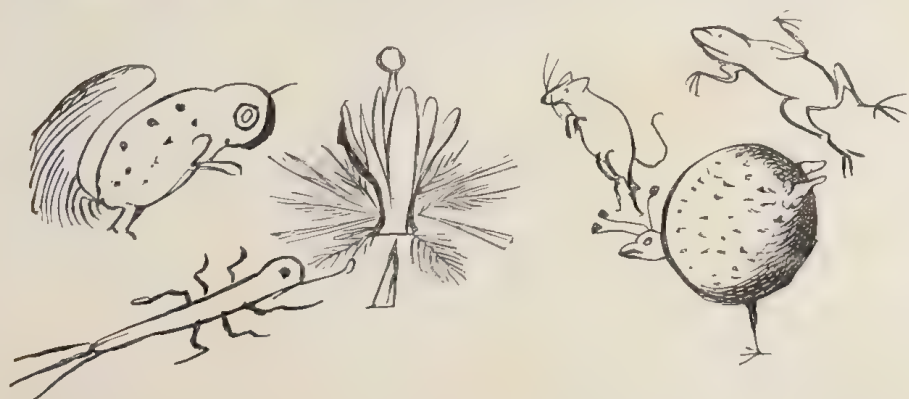


CHAPTER XII.

OF WHAT OCCURRED SUBSEQUENTLY.



AFTER it was known that the
Seven young Parrots,
and the Seven young Storks,
and the Seven young Geese,
and the Seven young Owls,
and the Seven young Guinea Pigs,
and the Seven young Cats,
and the Seven young Fishes,
were all dead, then the Frog, and the Plum-pudding Flea, and
the Mouse, and the Clangel-Wangel, and the Blue Boss-Woss,



all met together to rejoice over their good fortune. And they

collected the Seven Feathers of the Seven young Parrots, and the Seven Bills of the Seven young Storks, and the Lettuce, and the Cherry, and having placed the latter on the Lettuce, and the other objects in a circular arrangement at their base, they danced a hornpipe round all these memorials until they were quite tired; after which they gave a tea-party, and a garden-party, and a ball, and a concert, and then returned to their respective homes full of joy and respect, sympathy, satisfaction, and disgust.



CHAPTER XIII.

OF WHAT BECAME OF THE PARENTS OF THE FORTY-NINE CHILDREN.



UT when the two old Parrots,
and the two old Storks,
and the two old Geese,
and the two old Owls,
and the two old Guinea Pigs,
and the two old Cats,
and the two old Fishes,

became aware, by reading in the newspapers, of the calamitous extinction of the whole of their families, they refused all further sustenance; and sending out to various shops, they purchased great quantities of Cayenne Pepper, and Brandy, and Vinegar, and blue Sealing-wax, besides Seven immense glass

Bottles with air-tight stoppers. And having done this, they ate a light supper of brown bread and Jerusalem Artichokes, and took an affecting and formal leave of the whole of their acquaintance, which was very numerous and distinguished, and select, and responsible, and ridiculous.

CHAPTER XIV.

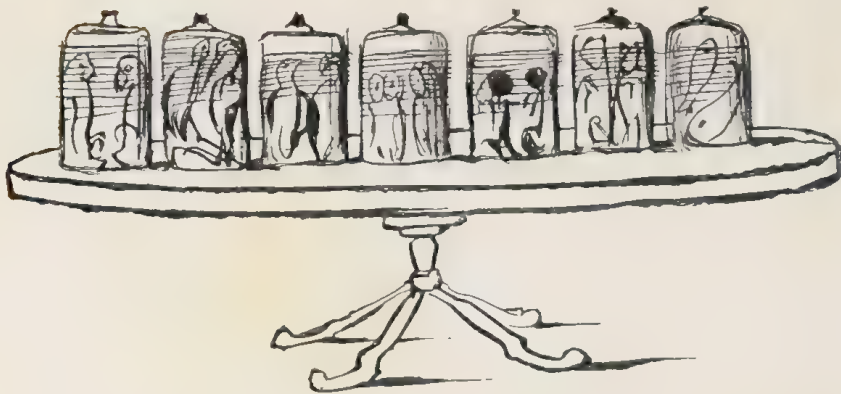
CONCLUSION.



AND after this, they filled the bottles with the ingredients for pickling, and each couple jumped into a separate bottle, by which effort of course they all died immediately, and became thoroughly pickled in a few minutes; having previously made their wills (by the assistance of the most eminent Lawyers of the District), in which they left strict orders that the Stoppers of the Seven Bottles should be carefully sealed up with the blue Sealing-wax they had purchased; and that they themselves in the Bottles should be presented to the principal museum of the city of Tosh, to be labelled with Parchment or any other anti-congenial succedaneum, and to be placed on a marble table with silver-gilt legs, for the daily inspection and contemplation, and for the perpetual benefit of the pusillanimous public.

And if ever you happen to go to Gramble-Blamble, and visit that museum in the city of Tosh, look for them on the

Ninety-eighth table in the Four hundred and twenty-seventh room of the right-hand corridor of the left wing of the Central Quadrangle of that magnificent building; for if you do not, you certainly will not see them.



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